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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/020,956 | 12/19/2001 | Kiyoo Morita | Q67795 | 1153 |

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SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
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Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER

KIM, SANG K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3654

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The reply brief filed on 1/31/06 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

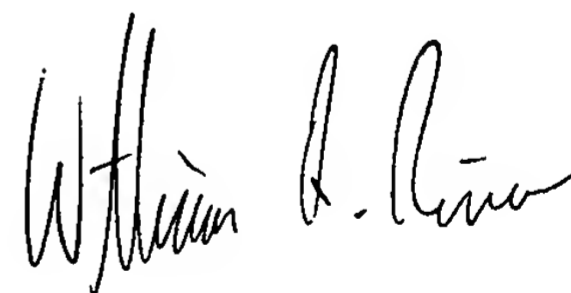
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SANG KIM whose telephone number is 571-272-6947. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. alternating Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki, can be reached on (571) 272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SK

2/23/06



**WILLIAM A. RIVERA
PRIMARY EXAMINER**